



The Oregon Conservancy Foundation

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Before the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony of Cathryn Chudy Oregon Conservancy Foundation March 10, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Smith, members of the Committee and the public, my name is Cathryn Chudy and I am a Board Member of the Oregon Conservancy Foundation (OCF). I am testifying in opposition to SB 635, SB 215 and SB 216.

SB 635 asks you to spend money in extremely short supply in our Oregon budget to ask questions that we already have answers for.

Former Colorado Senator Chris Hansen addressed the economics and timeline challenges of new nuclear, using currently available evidence: costs and delays remain prohibitive for deploying these proposed new nuclear plants. Final Answer: NOT cost effective and NOT any time soon, with the question of permanent waste disposal still not answered.

Senator Fredrick has traveled around the country looking at current possibilities for nuclear power generation and nuclear waste disposal. **He cautions your Committee to reject the nuclear “hype” and to vote NO on these bills.** Those waste disposal questions are still not answered 45 years later. You must not repeal our law with its fundamental question still unanswered.

My testimony links to [Plant Vogtle: The Truth About Nuclear Power in the United States](#) - A “cautionary tale” warning other states considering nuclear energy: do not believe nuclear energy proponents. Nuclear energy is never on time or on budget.

This recent analysis details how Georgians were forced into purchasing the most expensive electricity in the world and are now paying significantly higher electricity costs. It warns officials in other states not to believe claims that nuclear energy is cost-competitive, required for clean energy, or necessary to meet large growth projections, claims that were made repeatedly to Georgians leading up to and throughout the project.

The report addresses core “myths” about nuclear: that it’s clean, that it’s safe, that nuclear waste is “no big deal,” that Small Modular Reactors are different, that nuclear power is needed to provide baseload backup to renewables, that nuclear energy is required to meet future growth, and that nuclear energy is needed to combat climate change.

Conclusion: “Georgia’s experience illustrates that nuclear energy is the wrong path to a clean energy future.”

These plants had a standardized design with advanced safety systems, built with modules manufactured off site and then assembled onsite. The end result for ratepayers is dismal. Oregonians cannot afford the predictable reality of more expensive electricity rates combined with the unsolved nuclear waste disposal problem. We don’t need yet more “studies” when we already know the answers - too slow, too expensive, with Oregonians saddled with nuclear waste that we have told you for decades we don’t want in our state.

Please respect the still relevant will of the people of Oregon and vote NO on these three bills.